

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 612
By Venable

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. R. Wade Powers on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body recognize those who in their years of work have performed their duties with diligence, extraordinary expertise and rare skill; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Powers is one such outstanding person who has served with alacrity and acuity for nine years as President of Northeast State Technical Community College, a period of unprecedented growth for the college; and

WHEREAS, he has been a Tennessee educator for more than thirty productive years, starting as a highly regarded public school system band director in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Powers also served with distinction as the principal of the largest elementary school in Tennessee, Dean of Instruction and Educational Service at Volunteer State Community College (1978-1983), Dean of the College at Volunteer State Community College (1983-1986), and Interim President of Motlow State Community College (1986-1987), before coming to Northeast State in 1987; and

WHEREAS, under his dynamic leadership, Northeast has done an exemplary job of providing quality technical, trade, liberal arts, and specialty educational offerings and services that are accessible, affordable, and directly relevant to the needs of citizens and employers within the state; and

WHEREAS, since Dr. Powers became president, Northeast State Technical Community College has become the fastest growing school in the state in the past five years, with an enrollment increase of 110%; and

WHEREAS, five additional buildings have been added to the campus during Dr. Powers' tenure, including a faculty office building, an energy building, a student services building, an industry specific training building, and a state-of-the-art science and mathematics building with a new library in the planning stages; and

WHEREAS, the school has reached another important milestone, achieving a Foundation endowment of over \$1 million for scholarships; and

WHEREAS, the school has achieved national accreditation for all academic programs and has established the first free-standing off-campus site at Elizabethton; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Powers has facilitated a smooth transition between students from Northeast and four-year institutions by signing transfer agreements with King College, East Tennessee State University, Tusculum College, Milligan College and Tennessee Technological University's College of Engineering; and

WHEREAS, his brilliant tenure at the college brought an increased emphasis on communication technology, with the addition of over 600 PCs, three mainframe computers in the Computer Center, an automated library, Internet access and an informative home page on the World Wide Web; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Powers is an active and vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Dr. R. Wade Powers to Northeast State Technical Community College, his students and the Tennessee educational process; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we commend Dr. R. Wade Powers for his outstanding service and extend to him our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.